

Letters to the Editor for Wednesday, Oct. 16

GOP lawmakers act like blackmailers

Tim White's Oct. 6 column, "Have American voters had enough?" did an excellent job of explaining how the federal government shutdown hurts North Carolina, emphasizing that the shutdown was orchestrated by fewer than 50 members of Congress who bullied the rest of congressional Republicans to follow their plan.

However, I disagree with the suggestion that Democrats are also to blame because their intransigence allows this to drag on for their own PR benefit. Since when does our government negotiate with blackmailers who threaten our elected officials with expensive, lying ad campaigns and who terrorize them with threats they'll be "primaried"? We don't negotiate with terrorists, and we shouldn't concede anything to blackmailers.

These same bullies are also abusing the entire country as they prevent Congress from acting on climate change. Fortunately, the president promised that if Congress won't pass responsible climate change legislation (because fringe Republicans are preventing it), he'll fight climate change with regulations. Regulations aren't the best way to do it, but we ought not negotiate with bullies and we can't let them stop us from fighting climate change.

Until GOP bullies stop their socially unacceptable behavior, constituents should call the White House to tell the president to stay the course, and call their senators and representatives to urge them not to aid and abet blackmailing, terrorizing bullies.

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